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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 14-22 March 2016

Information for participants

I. Special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Date and venue

1. The special segment of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be held in the Plenary Hall, M-Building, from 14 to 16 March 2016, at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Wagramer Strasse 5, 1220 Vienna. The formal opening of the Commission will take place on Monday, 14 March 2016, at 10 a.m. Delegates are requested to be seated by 9.45 a.m.

Mandate

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/193, decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.

3. In its resolution 70/181, the General Assembly decided that the special session on the world drug problem would be convened for three days, from 19 to 21 April 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

4. In the same resolution, the Assembly recalled its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, in which it decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with

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drug-related matters, should lead the preparatory process of the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner.

5. In undertaking these preparations, the Commission initiated an intensive consultation process with all stakeholders (Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society) to ensure an "adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process", including through an UNGASS website (www.ungass2016.org) to enable global dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner. This website also contains information on the previous special segments and intersessional meetings held.

6. At its reconvened fifty-eighth session, held from 9 to 11 December 2015, the Commission decided, in accordance with CND resolution 58/8, that it would devote six meetings during its fifty-ninth session to the preparations for the special session. The Commission also decided that the fifty-ninth session would be held from Monday, 14 March, to Tuesday, 22 March 2016, with the special segment to be held from Monday, 14 March to Wednesday, 16 March 2016.

7. In its decision 58/15, the Commission adopted the following preliminary provisional agenda for the special segment:

1. Opening of the special segment.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016:
   (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session, including preparations for the interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables;
   (b) Consideration of the outcome of the special session;
   (c) Consideration of any other matters.
4. Other business.
5. Outcome and closure of the special segment.

II. Regular segment

8. The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will resume its regular segment, on Thursday, 17 March 2016, at 10 a.m. at the Plenary Hall, M-Building, Vienna International Centre. The Committee of the Whole of the Commission will begin its work on Wednesday, 16 March 2016, at 3 p.m. in Board Room A, M-Building.

9. The annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work are contained in document E/CN.7/2016/1, which is available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the Commission's fifty-ninth session.[1]

[1] www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/59_Session_2016/CND-59-Session_Index.html.

Statements

10. Delegates who will deliver statements are requested to supply their statements in advance to the Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (to sgb@unodc.org), or, alternatively, provide printed copies of their statements to the conference room officer in the Plenary Hall. A minimum of 200 copies should be provided to the Secretariat if delegations wish to have their statements distributed to delegations of States and organizations attending the session.

Draft resolutions

11. Pursuant to Commission decision 55/1, States intending to submit draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session were requested to submit them, one month prior to the start of the session, which, for the fifty-ninth session, is **Monday, 15 February 2016, at noon**. Draft resolutions should be submitted to the Secretariat (sgb@unodc.org) in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.

12. **Any revisions** to a draft resolution, after its distribution as an official document, **must be based on the official, edited version of the text**. For this purpose, sponsors are requested to obtain the finalized official electronic (Word) document from the Secretariat. Revisions to the text must be clearly marked using track changes in Word.

13. Member States wishing to co-sponsor draft resolutions may sign the respective signing sheet, which is with the Secretariat.

Bilateral meetings

14. For the reservation of rooms for bilateral meetings between Member States during the fifty-ninth session (14-22 March 2016), kindly contact:

UNOV Meetings Management Unit
conference@unvienna.org
(+43-1) 26060-6564

15. In submitting the request, Member States are reminded to include the date, time, the proposed duration of the meeting and the number of officials to be in attendance.

Side events

16. A number of side events and exhibitions will take place during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission. A programme will be published shortly on the website of the session.

III. Registration

Registration

17. The details of delegates (name, title/function, workplace, fax and telephone numbers and individual e-mail address), to be sent on official letterhead, should be

sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible, and not later than Thursday, 10 March 2016. The address of the Secretariat is as follows:

Secretariat to the Governing Bodies
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Fax: (+43-1) 26060-5885
E-mail: sgb@unodc.org

18. Providing the individual e-mail addresses will ensure that all representatives receive an automatic e-mail response confirming their registration. The automatic e-mail response will also contain a link to a site where each delegate may upload a photograph (in JPEG file format), thus shortening the time it will take to issue a grounds pass on the day of registration.

19. Delegates who do not complete the pre-registration procedure will need to have their photographs taken upon arrival at Gate 1 of the Vienna International Centre.

20. As part of the security arrangements, all participants are required to present their invitations or official communications identifying them as delegates, together with their passport or another official photograph-bearing identity document. Grounds passes must be worn visibly at all times in the Vienna International Centre. All persons and their bags and briefcases will be screened at the entrance to the Centre.

21. Registration will take place in the Pass Office at Gate 1 of the Vienna International Centre as of **Friday, 11 March 2016**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Given the large number of participants expected, delegates are encouraged to register on Friday, 11 March, and complete the registration process at the latest by 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 14 March 2016, in order to be on time for the opening meeting.

22. Commissary passes will be issued, upon completion of the registration process, to heads of Member State delegations, professional staff members of specialized agencies and all staff members of the United Nations assigned to the Commission from duty stations other than Vienna.

23. Permanent missions are encouraged to collect access cards for their delegates who have pre-registered at the Pass Office at Gate 1 as of Thursday, 10 March 2016, at noon.

List of participants

24. The preliminary list of participants in the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, including its special segment, will be issued on Wednesday, 16 March 2016. Only those registered and the names of participants officially communicated to the Secretariat by Thursday, 10 March 2016, at the very latest, can be included in the preliminary list. Accordingly, Governments and organizations are requested to communicate the necessary information promptly.

IV. Security

25. During the fifty-ninth session, including its special segment, from 14 to 22 March 2016, the Austrian authorities will be responsible for security outside the premises of the Vienna International Centre. The United Nations Security and Safety Service will be responsible for security inside the Vienna International Centre.

26. Specific requests regarding security arrangements and related matters should be addressed to:

Chief of the United Nations Security and Safety Service
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Room F0E08
VICSecurityChiefOffice@unvienna.org
Tel.: (+43-1) 26060-3901; fax: (+43-1) 26060-5834

27. For security reasons, conference participants are requested not to leave luggage, briefcases or laptops unattended.

V. Documentation

28. The official languages of the session are the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Official documents of the session will be made available in all six official languages.

29. Documentation to facilitate consideration of some of the issues on the provisional agenda is available on the website of the fifty-ninth session.

30. As part of the Secretariat's efforts to reduce expenditure and limit environmental impact through the digitization of conference materials and publications, only a limited number of printed pre-session documents will be available at the session venue. Each delegation will receive a single complete set of the documents in the language of its choice. Delegates are therefore kindly requested to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents to the meeting.

31. The document distribution counter will be located on the 1st floor of the M-Building. Each delegation will be provided with a distribution box for documents and the Journal. The Journal will contain the daily programme and other information related to the conduct of the session.

Online posting

32. The VIC Online Services application allows participants convenient access to documentation, including the agenda and programme of work, the meetings programme, the schedule of special events and information for participants regarding facilities and services available in the VIC; it also provides access to the digital recordings of public meetings. During the meeting, the application is available through participants' mobile devices such as smartphones and tablet PCs at the following web page: http://myconference.unov.org.

33. The VIC Online Services application is designed to facilitate the distribution of documents and meeting information more broadly during the conference, while helping to reduce paper use.

VI. Travel of participants from States members of the Commission

34. The funding policy of the United Nations with respect to the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council is to defray only the cost of airfare for one representative of each State that is a member of the body in question. The Government is requested to transmit an official notification to the Secretariat with the details of the representative for whom a ticket is to be provided, indicating his/her official mailing address, telephone and telefax numbers and official e-mail address, as well as his/her date of birth and a copy of his/her passport. In compliance with the latest instructions from the Under-Secretary-General for Management, tickets have to be issued at the latest 21 days prior to the departure date. Therefore, only those requests that are received by the Secretariat by **15 February 2016** will be processed. The Secretariat will not be able to process ticket requests received after that date. The Government's attention is drawn to the fact that the option of reimbursement of pre-purchased tickets will no longer be possible. The Secretariat stands ready to provide information in this regard upon request.

VII. General information

Conference rooms

35. Each seat in the conference rooms in the M-Building of the Vienna International Centre for which simultaneous interpretation is available will be equipped with a portable receiving set and headphone. Participants are requested not to remove that equipment from the meeting rooms so that it may be checked periodically and the batteries recharged, if necessary.

Use of mobile phones and laptops

36. Conference participants are kindly requested to keep their mobile telephones switched off inside conference rooms, as they cause radio frequency interference in the sound system, thus adversely affecting the sound quality of interpretation and the recording of proceedings.

37. The use of laptops in conference rooms can cause similar problems. Conference participants are requested not to use laptops next to open microphones.

Visas

38. Participants who require a visa must contact the competent diplomatic or consular authorities of Austria and apply for a Schengen short-stay (C) visa **at least three weeks prior** to their intended date of arrival in Austria. In countries where Austria does not have diplomatic or consular representation, visa applications can be submitted to the consular authority of a State party to the Schengen Agreement

acting on behalf of Austria in the country concerned. The Secretariat may, upon request by the Government concerned, provide a note verbale containing information on the applicant's participation in the session of the Commission, which may be of use in the visa application process. In order to provide the note verbale, the Secretariat requires the complete name as stated in the passport of the applicant, as well as his or her date of birth, nationality, passport details and an official confirmation from the Government represented by the applicant of his or her participation. A note verbale/official letter should be received by the Secretariat at least three weeks prior to the start of the meeting.

Accommodation

39. Each participant is responsible for making his or her own accommodation arrangements and, if necessary, contacting his or her permanent mission in Vienna for assistance.

40. Participants who arrive at the Vienna International Airport without having made a hotel reservation may wish to contact the Vienna tourist service desk located next to the information counter in the arrival area. The Vienna tourist service desk is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Transportation

41. Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for transportation to and from the airport and the Vienna International Centre.

42. An airport bus service operates between the Vienna International Airport and Morzinplatz (U1/U4 metro station at Schwedenplatz) at a cost of 8 euros for a single journey, including luggage. Journey time is approximately 20 minutes. Buses leave the airport for Morzinplatz at 1.20 a.m. and 2.50 a.m. and every 30 minutes from 4.50 a.m. to 0.20 a.m. Buses leave Morzinplatz for the airport at 12.30 a.m., at 2 a.m. and every 30 minutes from 4 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

43. There is also a bus service between the Vienna International Centre (next to the "Kaisermühlen/Vienna International Centre" station on the U1 metro line) and the Vienna International Airport. The fare is 8 euros for a one-way ticket and 13 euros for a return ticket. The trip takes approximately 20-45 minutes. Buses leave the airport for the Vienna International Centre every hour from 7.10 a.m. to 8.10 p.m. and leave the Vienna International Centre for the airport every hour from 6.10 a.m. to 7.10 p.m.

44. The City Airport Train (CAT) transports passengers between the CAT terminal in Vienna (the "Wien Mitte/Landstrasse" station on the U3 and U4 metro lines) and the Vienna International Airport. The fare is 12 euros for a one-way ticket and 19 euros for a return ticket, and the travel time is about 16 minutes. Trains leave the airport for Wien Mitte/Landstrasse every 30 minutes from 6.09 a.m. to 11.39 p.m. and leave Wien Mitte/Landstrasse for the airport every 30 minutes from 5.36 a.m. to 11.06 p.m.

VIII. Facilities

45. The following facilities will be available to participants at the Vienna International Centre.

Delegates' working areas and wireless network connection

46. Wireless connectivity is available everywhere in the M-Building. Delegates' working areas ("cyber corners") with desktop computers equipped with standard software and Internet access will be located on the ground floor of the M-Building.

Post office, telephones and faxes

47. A post office on the first floor of the C-Building of the Vienna International Centre (ext. 4986) provides all regular postal services, including a fax service, from Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

First aid

48. Medical attention is available from the clinic operated by the Joint Medical Services located at the Vienna International Centre, F-Building, seventh floor (ext. 22224 and, for emergencies, ext. 22222). The clinic is open from 8.30 a.m. until noon and from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., except on Thursdays, when it is open from 8.30 a.m. until noon and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. For emergency assistance at other times, please contact the Central Security Office in room F0E21 (ext. 3903).

Banks

49. Bank Austria has a branch providing full banking services on the first floor of the C-Building, as well as cashpoints (ATMs) at the entrance level of the D-Building and on the first floor of the C-Building of the Vienna International Centre. The office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Catering services

50. The cafeteria is located on the ground floor of the F-Building. The cafeteria is open from 7.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. (breakfast) and from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. (lunch). The coffee area in the cafeteria is open from 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

51. The coffee areas in the M-Building and the C-Building (C07) are open from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Cocktail Lounge is located in the C-Building (C02), with opening hours from 11.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Receptions at the Vienna International Centre can be arranged by contacting the catering operations office ((+43-1) 26060-4875; e-mail: cateringvic@eurest.at).

Travel services

52. The American Express office (room number C0E01) is available to participants requiring assistance with travel, car rentals, sightseeing and excursions. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Access to the Vienna International Centre

53. Participants arriving at the Vienna International Centre by taxi are advised to get off in the side lane (*Nebenfahrbahn*) of Wagramer Strasse, register at Gate 1, walk across Memorial Plaza, proceed to entrance "A" and follow the signs to the M-Building. Participants arriving by metro (U1 line) should get off at the "Kaisermühlen/Vienna International Centre" station, follow the signs marked "Vienna International Centre", register at Gate 1, walk across Memorial Plaza and proceed to entrance "A".

54. There are no parking facilities for conference participants, except for Permanent Mission delegates in possession of a valid parking permit.

55. Attention is drawn to the Delegates' Handbook (available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/Delegates_Handbook.html).